

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-21 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration of all pending claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,210,162, to Chishti et al. (hereinafter "Chishti"), in view of U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0051255, to Bulman et al. (hereinafter "Bulman"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As amended, independent claim 1 of the present Application is directed to a method for facilitating mass customization of an object, including generating a template representing data common to the object, generating specific data to customize the object in conjunction with the template, wherein the specific data includes at least one tool path, and directing at least one tool along the tool path to fabricate a customized version of the object. Independent claim 13, as amended, is directed to a method for fabricating a customized object. The method involves receiving a digital representation of a target path, generating a mathematically smoothed version of the target path, applying the smoothed target path to generate a secondary target path, generating a streamlined tool path based on the secondary target path, and directing a tool along the tool path to fabricate the customized object.

Chishti does not describe, teach or suggest a number of the features of claims 1 and 13. For example, nowhere does Chishti describe directing a tool along a tool path to fabricate a customized object. As noted in the Office Action, Chishti also fails to disclose generating a template representing data common to the object. Thus, Chisti also fails to disclose generating specific data to customize the object in conjunction with the template, since there is no description of generating a template. Furthermore, Chishti describes none of the steps of claim 13 (claim 13 was not addressed in the Office Action).

Based upon the above, Applicant submits that Chishti fails to teach the features recited in claims 1 and 13. Further, the deficiencies of Chishti are not cured by Bulman. Bulman is directed to an Internet-based method for generating a personalized presentation, including receiving and delivering an image and context to and from a user. Bulman does not teach or suggest generating a template representing data common to the object. Accordingly, even if Chishti and Bulman were combined as suggested in the Office Action, the resultant combination would also fail to teach or suggest the features recited in Applicant's claims 1 and 13. Furthermore, there was no motivation or suggestion to combine a positive mold of a patient's dentition, as described in Chishti, with an Internet-based method for creating a presentation, as in Bulman, since these technologies are completely unrelated.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 13, as well as pending dependent claims 3-12 and 14-21, which depend variously therefrom, are allowable. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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